GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:534
ANSWERED ON:11.04.2017
Survey on Fish Species
Hari Shri G.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a survey on the river Ganga to determine the population of aquatic life, including that of the endangered Gangetic dolphin and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether a study on fish species composition in the river has also been started from Harsil in Uttarakhand and if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the progress made so far on the said survey/study?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIORNMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a),(b) &(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

****

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b) AND (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *534 REGARDING "SURVEY ON FISH SPECIES" RAISED BY SHRI G.HARI DUE FOR REPLY ON 11.04.2017.

(a)This Ministry has not launched any survey on the river Ganga to determine the population of aquatic life including the Gangetic dolphin. However, recently the Ministry of Water Resources (River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation), under National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)'s Namami Gange Programme has entrusted a job of comprehensive survey of the aquatic fauna of Ganga river under the project "Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation" to the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) Dehra Dun. As part of this project WII has initiated a standardized multi-species field survey throughout the Ganga River. The survey focuses on the Gangetic dolphin, otters, crocodiles, freshwater turtles, migratory and breeding water birds, amphibians, fish and aquatic insects.

(b) & (c) WII has initiated systematic survey of fishes in Bhagirathi river from Harshil to Deoprayag in Uttarakhand to understand the spatial patterns of fishes across sub-basins of Bhagirathi and to assess the diversity of fishes in river Ganga in the upstream areas. This project is being supported by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. Significant findings of the survey till date are as follows:
â€¢ 17 fish species recorded with a maximum recorded in Balganga followed by Bhilangana.
â€¢ 2617 m was the highest elevation till which fishes were recorded (Salmo trutta fario) for lotic system (Bhagirathi River, Harsil) while 3083 m being the highest for lentic system (Dodital Lake).
â€¢ Schizothorax richardsonii showed the highest relative abundance (43 %) as compared to the other species recorded.
â€¢ BRB 2 and BRB 3 as well as BRB 4 and Balganga showed maximum similarity in the species composition with a minimum Bray Curtis Dissimilarity Index of 0.400.
â€¢ Principal Component Analysis of 13 habitat parameters showed maximum influence of pH, TDS, EC and substrate of cobbles which can affect the fish assemblage patterns.

***